NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING JAN. 23 IN MADISON FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO U.S. 220 (FUTURE I-73) FROM HAW RIVER TO U.S. 220/N.C. 68 INTERSECTION

TIP Project No. R-2413C

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting in January regarding proposed improvements to the intersection of U.S. 220 and N.C. 68 in Rockingham County. These improvements are a part of the larger R-2413C project to improve and widen U.S. 220 (Future I-73) to a multi-lane roadway from Haw River to the U.S. 220/N.C. 68 intersection, which is currently under construction.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, Jan. 23, in the cafeteria at Huntsville Elementary, located at 2020 Sardis Church Road in Madison. The open house will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Interested citizens may attend at any time during these hours, as there will be no formal presentation. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments regarding the proposed project. Citizens will also have the opportunity to submit comments and questions in writing.

NCDOT is currently widening U.S. 220 from Horsepen Creek Road in Guilford County to N.C. 68 in Rockingham County. The roadway is being constructed to interstate standards and will be designated Interstate 73 once the proposed N.C. 68 to U.S. 220 connector project (TIP Project R-2413A, scheduled for construction in 2014) is completed. The remaining stretch of U.S. 220 to Virginia does not meet interstate standards and would require additional work in the future to meet those requirements.

As part of the existing contract to widening U.S. 220, NCDOT is proposing a revision to the project plans that includes the construction of a partial interchange at N.C. 68 and U.S. 220, as opposed to the signalized intersection currently included in the contract. This partial interchange will be constructed up to interstate standards and will provide more efficient flow of traffic at this location, since traffic on this section of U.S. 220/Future I-73 will be traveling at interstate speeds when approaching the intersection.

In addition, NCDOT is proposing minor revisions to the U.S. 220/ Newnam Road/Price Farm Road intersection which will improve safety for motorists entering and exiting U.S. 220. The new intersection design will allow left turns onto Newnam Road and Price Farm Road from U.S. 220, but will not allow left turns onto U.S. 220 from these roads.

To access southbound U.S. 220 from Newnam Road, motorists will turn right onto northbound U.S. 220, travel about 1000 feet, then complete a U-turn onto southbound U.S. 220. To access northbound U.S. 220 from Price Farm Road, motorists will turn right onto southbound on U.S. 220, travel about 1000 feet and then complete a U-turn onto northbound U.S. 220. The U-turns will be made in a designated area constructed specifically for this purpose.

It is anticipated that no additional right of way will be required to construct the proposed interchange at U.S. 220 and N.C. 68 or modify the U.S. 220/ Newnam Road/Price Farm Road intersection, as all construction activity will be conducted within the existing right of way.

For additional information, contact Jamille Robbins with the NCDOT-Human Environment Section at (919) 707-6085, <u>jarobbins@ncdot.gov</u> or 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598. Additional material may be submitted until February 6, 2013.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in these meetings. Anyone requiring special services should contact Robbins as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling (800) 481-6494.